

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MASERU 01778 040212Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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R 031445Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7759
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 1778

DEPT ALSO FOR INR/OIL/B

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, LT
SUBJECT: GOL REACTIONS TO U.S. VETOES IN SECURITY COUNCIL,
OCTOBER 31

REF: STATE 260840,

1. SUMMARY. SUBSTANCE OF U.S. POSITIONS AND SANITIZED COPIES OF TALKING POINTS, TEXTS OF TWO STATEMENTS BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG, AND TEXT OF CANADA/FRG RESOLUTION WERE GIVEN TO ACTING FONMIN J.R.L. KOTSOKOANE DURING FIFTEEN-MINUTE APPOINTMENT EARLY NOVEMBER 3. HE DECLINED TO COMMENT, PENDING A READING OF MATERIALS, ADDING APPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE OUTLINED AT CABINET MEETING LATER IN DAY. REACTION, IF ANY, WOULD BE AUTHORIZED AT MEETING WHICH PRIMIN WOULD BE ATTENDING. MEANWHILE, JUNIOR OFFICERS IN MINISTRY EXPRESSED A RANGE OF REACTIONS - FROM A SIGH OF RELIEF TO BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT. ALTHOUGH ALL ARE IN FAVOR OF MANDATORY ARMS EMBARGO, THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS VARIED GREATLY. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MASERU 01778 040212Z

2. ACTING FONMIN KOTSOKOANE, A FORMER HIGH COMMISSIONER TO LONDON AND CURRENTLY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, SAID HE WAS INTERESTED TO LEARN THAT ISSUES OF VOETOES WOULD BE DEBATED ANEW, A REFERENCE TO CANADA/FRG RESOLUTION. HE WAS ATTENTIVE DURING REVIEW OF U.S. POSITIONS AS THEY WERE OUTLINED, AND ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE LISTENING TO NOON RADIO NEWSCASTS FOR ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS.

HE APPEARED TO AGREE WHEN OBSERVATION OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS REPEATED THAT MESSAGE TO SOUTH AFRICA NOW WOULD BE MIXED BECAUSE OF UN ACTIONS OF OCTOBER 31.

3. MRS. THAKANE CHIMOMBE, AMERICAN DESK OFFICER AND ACTING CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, EXPRESSED GREAT RELIEF THAT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS HAD BEEN VETOED. HER CONCERN HAD BEEN THAT THE PLIGHT OF LESOTHO AND BOTSWANA AND SWAZILAND TO A LESSER EXTENT, HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. SHE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO THINK OF ANY MANNER IN WHICH LESOTHO COULD RECEIVE GOODS IF SOUTH AFRICA HAD ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST IT. THIS VIEW WAS TOTALLY SHARED BY MIS HILDA HLEKANE, SOCIAL WORKER WITH MINISTRY OF HEALTH, AND MRS. TEBOKO KIKINE, EUROPEAN DESK OFFICER IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THEY WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE THE ARMS EMBARGO PASS, BUT WERE NOT BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED.

4. AT THE OTHER END OF THE SCALE OF REACTIONS IS MR. TSELISO SEKANTSI, AFRICAN DESK OFFICER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO WAS VERY BITTER ABOUT THE VETOES. HE VIEW IS THAT SAG WILL ONLY CHANGE THROUGH VIOLENCE AND THAT TOTAL SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA IS THE QUICKEST METHOD FOR BRINGING ABOUT TOTAL VIOLENCE ON THE PART OF THE BLACKS. HE ALSO IS QUITE GENUINELY WILLING TO "SACRIFICE" THROUGH ECONOMIC SANCTIONS THE POPULATIONS OF BOTSWANA, LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND FOR THE ULTIMATE BENEFIT OF THE TWENTY MILLION BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS. SEKANTSI WENT ON TO SAY IT WAS INCORRECT FOR ANYONE TO CONSIDER LESOTHO AS A CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MASERU 01778 040212Z

NATION APART FROM SOUTH AFRICA; THE PROBLEMS OF THE BASOTHO IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE THE PROBLEMS OF LESOTHO, AND LESOTHO SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SEE THAT A BLACK GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

5. MR. LEKHANYA MATHABA, FORMER FIRST SECRETARY IN LESOTHO MISSION TO U.N. AND PRESENTLY A ROVER IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AGREES WITH SEKANTSI BUT SAYS THAT DEEP INSIDE HE KNOWS AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS CORRECT IN WHAT HE SAID IN HIS TWO SPEECHES. HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT LIKE TO ADMIT THAT ANYTHING BUT THE TOUGHEST LINE IS ACCEPTABLE.

6. COMMENT: THESE REACTIONS ACCURATELY REFLECT THE RANGE OF FEELINGS GENERALLY EXPRESSED IN MASERU. ECONOMIC SANCTIONS IS THE ONE POINT OF DISAGREEMENT AMONG THE BASOTHO LIVING IN MASERU, AS IT WOULD VERY LIKELY HAVE A DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON THEIR LIVES AND NOT EVERYONE HERE IS READY TO BE A MARTYR. END COMMENT.

7 BIO DATA

THAKANE CHIMOMBE, BORN 1947, LESOTHO. MARRIED TO K. CHIMOMBE, RHODESIAN (MUGABE SUPPORTER) HEAD-MASTER. HAS THREE YOUNG SONS.

SHE HAS A B.A. FROM N.U.L. AND IS CONSIDERED TO BE AMONG THE MOST COMPETENT AND EFFICIENT GOL OFFICIALS. SHE IS GENERALLY A LIBERAL WHO FALLS SHORT OF SUPPORTING VIOLENCE, BUT HAS ON OCCASION SAID THAT VIOLENCE IS THE ONLY SOLUTION TO SOUTH AFRICA'S PROBLEMS. SHE IS SELF-CONSCIOUSLY OVER-WEIGHT, VERY EASY-GOING, PLEASANT, AND ENJOYS ENTERTAINING, USUALLY BUFFET DINNERS THAT INCLUDE DANCING.

TSELISO SEKANTSI IS IN HIS MID-TWENTIES AND IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE RESIDENT RADICAL IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE GRADUATED FROM N.U.L. IN 1976 HAVING STUDIED POLITICS AND ECONOMICS. HE WAS ORIGINALLY ASSIGNED AS ASIAN DESK OFFICER IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BUT WAS VERY RECENTLY SWITCHED TO THE AFRICAN DESK, WHICH DISTURBED HIM SINCE HE ENJOYED FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN ASIA. SEKANTSI IS SINGLE AND IS SERIOUS AND STUDIOUS. HE APPROACHES HIS JOB BY LEARNING THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MASERU 01778 040212Z

CULTURES OF THE AREA HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR. SMALL AND REARDED, HE OFTEN STRIKES PEOPLE AS APPEARING SINISTER, WHICH HE ISN'T AT ALL. HIS RADICALISM IS BASED ON A MORALISTIC IDEALISM WHICH HE IS CONSCIOUSLY ATTEMPTING TO RETAIN WHILE WORKING AS A CIVIL SERVANT.
BIELAK

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